



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 2, 2005  
Week Ending: May 1, 2005  
CWP WA-CW1805

## Spring Wheat Planting Nearly Completed Cattle Released onto Spring Pastures

### Field Crops

Warm, dry weather dominated in most areas of the state and allowed growers to get most of the planting done. Warm weather helped winter wheat, potatoes, and newly seeded grains grow and emerge quickly. Franklin County spring wheat was nearly headed. Planting of spring crops was nearly complete in Asotin, Garfield, and Whitman Counties. Asotin County winter wheat in lower elevations and on shallow ground started showing signs of moisture stress. Bluegrass seed producers in Spokane County replanted due to crusting conditions. In Snohomish and King Counties, Douglas Fir Christmas trees showed new growth. Grant County finished corn planting. Potato planting continued. First cutting for alfalfa hay began in Franklin County.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 21% poor, 23% fair, 48% good, and 1% excellent. Calving was nearly complete in Thurston County. Most cattle were out on spring pastures. Water supplies for livestock were still a problem in Asotin and Garfield Counties.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Apple and pear blossom were almost done in Snohomish and King Counties. Strawberries were blooming. Rhubarb harvest began. Asparagus harvest continued in Franklin and Benton Counties. Kitsap vegetable crops and greenhouse production were weeks ahead of schedule. However, cool and wet weather in Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties affected the bloom of fruit trees and caused concern for berry crops.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.2
Last Week	5.6

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	24	70	4
Topsoil 5 year average	2	15	80	3
Subsoil	24	45	30	1
Subsoil 5 year average	2	21	76	1
Irrigation Water	14	15	71	0
Irrigation Water 5 year average	0	6	94	0
Hay & Roughage	2	24	74	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	93	99	90
Spring Wheat Emerged	64	54	85	65
Winter Wheat Headed	7	4	4	2
Barley Planted	76	72	99	84
Barley Emerged	45	39	87	55
Potatoes Planted	84	78	79	76
Potatoes Emerged	46	16	40	33
Corn Planted	39	21	53	47
Corn Emerged	8	2	10	4
Dry Edible Beans Planted	44	25	91	26
Proc. Green Peas Planted	92	83	96	75
Dry Peas Planted	73	48	94	61
Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	2	0	3	2

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	2	13	70	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	5	82	12
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	54	44	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	2	2	21	75	0
Barley Dryland	0	2	41	56	1
Barley Irrigated	0	0	57	43	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

- \* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** A brief period of sunny weather early last week allowed some farmers to get into the fields, but showers brought all activity to a halt. Over the weekend, heavy thunder showers brought over a half inch of rain to many areas. Rainfall for the week was about an inch.

**Kitsap:** Excellent crop conditions continued. Pasture forage, vegetable crops, and greenhouse production were many weeks ahead of schedule. Area farmers markets had all started operation along with local CSA's.

**Mason:** Tilling began in earnest and good weather made field work productive. Local vegetable growers were gearing up for the beginning of Farmers Market and CSA season. Greenhouses were flourishing with seedlings and plant starts. Home gardeners took advantage of the nice weather to get caught up in their own gardens.

**Pierce:** Fields were looking good. The ground was still wet, but workable. Looks like it will be a good year.

**Pierce/South King:** The conditions around the South Puget Sound area remained good for the farmers. There was timely rain and sunshine. There were no unusual situations to report. There was no report of crop damage due to weather conditions.

**Skagit:** Plowing and soil conditioning were the main activities last

week. Some planting occurred as well. The current week will yield a flurry of planting activity.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Weather conditions were mild. Temperatures were in high 60's during the day. It was mostly sunny with a few showers over the weekend. Farmers were in the fields planting.

**Snohomish/King:** Field work continued through the week with just a few scattered showers. Many fields were disced in preparation for planting. Lots of grass silage was bagged and cutting continued. Apple and pear blossom was about done. Strawberries were in bloom. Douglas fir Christmas trees were showing new growth.

**Thurston:** Grass growth was good. Cattle were still needing hay as supplement to pasture. Calving was nearly complete. Cattle prices continued to be very high. The evenings and nights were warmer.

**Whatcom:** The pace of spring tillage activity picked up with a dry week. Most grass growers were taking off their first cutting of green chop. Corn planting began. During the past week,.04 inches of precipitation fell as average daytime high temperatures rose to 65.4 degrees, 3 degrees above the average. Night-time low temps averaged 48.7 degrees, 6.7 degrees above the average. For the month of April 2005, Lynden received 3.17 inches of precipitation compared to an average of 3.66 inches.

## Central

**Asotin/Garfield:** Warm, dry weather dominated for the week. Winter wheat in the lower elevations and on shallow ground started showing signs of moisture stress. This showed how vulnerable this crop is with little or no subsoil moisture. Timely rains are needed to produce a normal crop this year. Planting of spring crops was nearly complete. Additional reports of water problems for livestock continued to be submitted. Poor pasture conditions were also being reported, with some producers asking about emergency CRP grazing.

**Benton:** Asparagus cutting, irrigation, weed control and mildew sprays were major activities. Growers were also thinning apples.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** For the month of April 87% of normal precipitation was received. The Roza started priming the canal on Friday, April 29 instead of Sunday, May 1 due to excess river flows.

**Franklin:** First cutting for alfalfa was beginning. Good drying conditions will be needed for the next few weeks. Asparagus harvest was in full swing. Wheat was nearing heading.

**Franklin (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** April ended at 59 percent of normal precipitation as did the last four months. Range condition was extremely poor and ranchers increased supplemental feeding - feeding later in the spring than normal. Winter dryland wheat crop needs more precipitation for average yields. CRP seeding was discontinued early because of the drought conditions and fall seeded stands were struggling. Many of the typical row irrigated crops like peas and beans were planted. Potatoes were still being planted. A very small acreage of first cutting hay at the south end of the county was cut. Asparagus harvest continued.

**Grant:** Corn planting was finishing up. Potato planting continued. Range and pasture conditions were in fair to good condition.

**Kittitas:** The area is still dry. Farmers were irrigating, many cattle were on pasture. Warm weather facilitated rapid plant growth. Rangeland conditions were very dry. Deep-rooted plants were doing well, but soil is dry even 12 inches down.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Conditions remained very dry. This week's

weather calls for low 40's to high 60's / low 70's. A slight chance of showers with increasing possibility towards the end of the week are expected.

**Klickitat:** The area received nominal precipitation. Topsoil moisture was OK for now but subsoil moisture was very short and waterways were very, very low for this time of year. Alfalfa weevils were already in action.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Days suitable to work varied through out the county. The West end had no days suitable, and east end could have been in the field every day.

**Lincoln:** The crops need rain after the drying wind on last Thursday. Some stress was showing in the big winter wheat on the poor ground.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** There was mostly good conditions for fieldwork, and warm growing weather for crops was experienced during the week. Small grain crops looked good. Rain is presently needed to sustain these crops and pasture in order to keep them progressing.

**Okanogan:** .60 inches of rain fell with partly cloudy weather. Animals were being rotated through lush pastures. Fields were rototilled in preparation for planting. Rhubarb was ready to harvest for the first time.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** The counties received seven days of good weather that allowed producers to be out in the fields. Temperatures were higher than normal. Most cattle were out to spring pastures. Most of the pastures looked good at this time. The winter wheat looked good at this time. Most of the spring grains had been planted except in the higher elevations. We received no damage to any fruit crops. Most hay growers were irrigating now.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 12 degrees above normal to 2 degrees below normal, with .02 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather condition were reported.

## Eastern

**Pend Oreille:** Temperature were at a high of 72 degrees and a low 20 degrees. There was zero precipitation with a cold front that moved in. The hay fields were slow growing but no sign of freeze damage.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week of dry weather helped growers get most of the planting done. Bluegrass seed producers who planted before the big rains were replanting due to crusting. Some of the acreage was being converted to small grains. Topsoil moisture was becoming harder to find. Warm weather made the winter wheat and newly seed grains grow and emerge quickly. Pasture grass was growing, but the dryer areas were already burning up.

**Stevens:** The past week experienced several warm days with highs near 80 degrees. No precipitation was received. Producers continued tilling fields and seeding grain and hay crops. Several ranchers branded calves and moved them to pasture. Grass growth was three to four inches high.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** There were ten to twelve inches of growth on pastures.

**Walla Walla:** Growing crops continued to look good. Recent rains improved area pastures. Overall farmers remained optimistic that crops will be good this year. The biggest concern remained with area irrigators who were preparing to have water cut off soon.

**Whitman:** Weather was warm with very little moisture. Pastures were holding up but moisture is needed for maintenance.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Conditions remained dry the last week of April. Most spring seeding was completed and growers turned their attention to spraying and other operations. Additional rains would be welcomed.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

May 2, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	43	72	56	7	45	32	0	0	0.02	-0.58	2	33.19	3.62	112	121
Everett	46	69	57	7	50	36	0	0	0.05	-0.51	2	22.33	-7.21	76	122
Hoquiam	47	65	54	4	28	14	0	0	0.32	-0.55	4	48.55	-11.31	81	141
Kelso	43	73	57	6	50	30	1	1	0.65	-0.03	3	21.18	-18.07	54	96
Olympia	41	72	57	8	50	39	1	1	0.45	-0.16	3	32.72	-12.32	73	124
Sea-Tac	48	71	57	7	54	36	1	1	0.66	0.21	4	25.77	-6.51	80	105
Shelton	42	71	56	5	47	25	0	0	0.22	-0.51	2	46.58	-12.36	79	118
Tacoma	43	70	58	7	55	35	1	1	0.75	0.19	4	22.05	-11.87	65	94
Vancouver	43	73	57	7	53	32	0	0	0.51	-0.05	1	22.55	-12.95	64	113
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	38	84	56	7	47	30	7	7	0.05	-0.06	1	4.33	-2.92	60	60
Stampede Pass	38	68	51	15	18	18	0	0	0.23	-0.73	3	52.16	-19.52	73	130
Wenatchee	42	82	59	5	64	28	13	7	0.00	-0.14	0	4.33	-2.25	66	51
Yakima AP	37	81	56	5	47	20	8	8	0.03	-0.04	2	4.44	-2.02	69	58
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	31	83	55	6	41	27	9	9	0.00	-0.37	0	14.30	-1.49	91	71
Deer Park	28	78	50	2	20	6	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	13.37	-0.70	95	83
Spokane AP	35	77	53	5	29	15	3	3	0.00	-0.28	0	8.25	-4.26	66	71
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	35	81	57	3	49	10	4	-2	0.02	-0.08	1	3.41	-2.29	60	43
Moses Lake	31	81	56	2	43	4	2	-4	0.00	-0.10	0	3.50	-2.20	61	41
Quincy	36	79	57	4	52	19	9	3	0.00	-0.11	0	3.45	-2.67	56	37
Ritzville	33	79	53	4	30	16	2	2	0.00	-0.21	0	5.97	-3.02	66	45
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	36	85	58	0	56	-2	11	0	0.00	-0.07	0	2.62	-2.53	51	33
Pasco	35	82	58	2	59	8	10	3	0.01	-0.12	1	3.55	-2.45	59	47
Pullman	32	72	50	2	13	2	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	4.33	-12.24	26	52
Whitman Miss.	30	79	55	2	35	3	4	4	0.00	-0.27	0	7.71	-2.98	72	73
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D' A' AP	30	75	52	3	36	19	6	6	0.00	-0.42	0	9.50	-10.34	48	56
Lewiston ID	40	79	57	4	53	18	10	10	0.01	-0.27	1	6.69	-1.78	79	67

Summary based on NWS data.  
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004  
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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